

**CONFIDENTIAL**

NATIONAL INDICATIONS CENTER

(Orig filed in O/DDCI)

Room BC 956  
Pentagon

6 March 1961

## MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL CABELL

SUBJECT: Personnel Status of the Watch Alert Group, National Indications Center

1. The following is the current situation on USIB assignment of watch officers to NIC:

| <u>AGENCY</u> | <u>PRIMARY<br/>WATCH OFFICER</u>       | <u>ASSISTANT<br/>WATCH OFFICER</u> |
|---------------|--|------------------------------------|
| CIA           | Assigned                               | Assigned                           |
| Air Force     | Assigned                               | Assigned                           |
| Navy          | Delinquent. Officer<br>still on roster | Assigned                           |
| State         | Assigned                               | Third Interim<br>"rostered in"     |
| Army          | Delinquent. Officer<br>still on roster | Delinquent                         |

2. On the 23rd of August, 1960 the USIB unanimously approved the Watch Committee (NIC) recommendation for an ultimate duty complement of ten men for a 24-hour, 7-day week, two-man team of one primary and one assistant duty officer. Personnel were to be provided on a permanently assigned basis to the National Indications Center from CIA, State, Air Force, Army and Navy. At the time of this approval, CIA, State and Air Force were each providing one permanently assigned primary duty officer.

3. CIA was the first to respond to the USIB approval of the ten-man complement, and by the end of August had provided an interim assignee available to us every fifth night for the assistant watch officer position. It is significant to

NIC

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note that, although this was an interim personnel action, it was a quasi-permanent assignment in terms of the individual involved, so that a good degree of continuity was obtainable. Early in September, Navy responded by permanently assigning a senior noncommissioned officer for their assistant watch officer billet. They continued to "roster in" a field grade commissioned officer (every fifth night) as previously with an individual officer performing watch in the NIC every 25th night.

4. Shortly after Navy's response, the Air Force permanently assigned a noncommissioned officer, thus providing the required complement of a field grade commissioned officer, primary duty officer, and a noncommissioned officer, assistant watch officer.

5. It was not until January 1961 that the State Department assigned, and only on an interim basis, a person for the assistant watch officer duty. Since that time, State Department has gone through three interim assignees with no positive assurance to us yet as to when their permanent assistant watch officer will finally be assigned.

6. Early in February, CIA permanently assigned an assistant watch officer to the NIC thus fulfilling their requirement.

7. The Army reportedly has received DOD approval for slots for two duty officers for NIC. To date, however, Army continues to "roster in" a primary duty watch officer every fifth night, such officers standing watches for one month's time, never returning to the NIC at the completion of this period of watch duty, adding to the problems of continuity. They have not yet provided an assistant watch officer under the 23 August 1960 USIB approval.

[Redacted]

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Director

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